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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
AID-05 MCT-02 TRSE-00 /094 W
----------019559 101331Z /44
R 090944Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2785
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, KS
SUBJECT: APARTMENT SCANDAL: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD

REF: SEOUL 6479 (DTG 240820Z JUL 78)

1. ON AUGUST 8 RULING CAMP FINALLY AGREED TO OPPOSITION'S DEMAND THAT SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE BE CONVENED TO DEAL WITH HYUNDAI APARTMENT SCANDAL. SESSION WILL BE HELD AUGUST 11 AND 12.

2. SIT-IN AT COMMITTEE (REFTEL). EXTENDED TO SIX DAYS AND RECEIVED WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE. AT CONCLUSION OF SIT-IN AND IN FACE OF CONTINUED RULING CAMP'S INTRASIGENCE, OPPOSITION THREATENED NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YUN TAE-IL. FOLLOWING OPPOSITION PRESSURE AND CONTINUING PRESS SPECULATION OVER SCANDAL, RULING CAMP AGREED THAT IN RETURN FOR OPPOSITION
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DROPPING ACTION AGAINST CHONG AND YUN, COMMITTEE SESSION WOULD BE CALLED.

3. DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN RULING AND OPPOSITION CAMPS. IN PARTICULAR, RULING CAMP CALLS FOR TESTIMONY ONLY FROM MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, OPPOSITION DEMANDS TESTIMONY FROM JUSTICE MINISTER,

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PROSECUTOR GENERAL, MAYOR OF SEOUL, PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT
FOR REFORM, AND HYUNDAI CHAIRMAN.

4. OPPOSITION PLANS TO CHALLENGE FINDINGS OF PROSECUTOR
AND BRING UP QUESTION OF HIGH-LEVEL ROKG OFFICIALS
ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN SCANDAL. ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG TAE-CH'OL
WILL DEMAND RECORDS OF OTHER CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES TO
DEAL WITH ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY TOO ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL
PRACTICES. CHONG ALSO PLANS TO MOVE THAT ALL THE APARTMENT
SALES CONNECTED WITH SCANDAL BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID
UNDER CIVIL CODE SECTION 103. OPPOSITION WILL FACE DIFFICULTY
IN ACHIEVING EACH OF THEIR GOALS IN FACE OF LIKELY BLOCKING
ACTION BY RULING CAMP WHICH HOLDS 11/6 MAJORITY. HOWEVER,
OPPOSITION SEES ITSELF HAVING WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT
IN TAKING GOVERNMENT TO TASK OVER RECENT SERIES OF SCANDALS,
AND QUESTIONING IN CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE PROMISES TO
BE PARTICULARLY SHARP.
GLEYSTEEN

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